

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for fabricating a Vss line in a memory device, comprising:
 - forming a plurality of memory cells above a semiconductor substrate;
 - forming a channel between two of said memory cells;
 - forming an oxide/nitride/oxide stack above said memory cells and said channel;
 - removing a portion of said oxide/nitride/oxide stack between said memory cells to expose said semiconductor substrate;
 - removing said oxide/nitride/oxide stack above the gates of said memory cells;
 - forming a plurality of source regions in said substrate between said memory cells;
 - forming a poly-silicon layer above said memory cells and said channel to connect to said source regions; and

removing a sufficient portion of said poly-silicon layer to form a Vss line.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said memory cells are implemented as flash memory cells.
3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said memory cells comprise:
 - a tunnel oxide above said semiconductor substrate;
 - a floating gate above said tunnel oxide;
 - an isolating region above said floating gate; and
 - a control gate above said isolating region, wherein said memory cell is programmed by storing a charge in said floating gate and current flow between said source and said drain is affected by said stored charge.
4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said isolating region comprises:
 - a first oxide layer above said floating gate;
 - a nitride layer above said first oxide layer; and
 - a second oxide layer above said nitride layer.
5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein said oxide is an oxide of silicon.
6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein said nitride is a nitride of silicon.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said channel is a Vss channel.
8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said forming an oxide/nitride/oxide stack comprises:
 - forming a first oxide layer above said semiconductor substrate;
 - forming a nitride layer above said first oxide layer; and
 - forming a second oxide layer above said nitride layer.
9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said oxide is an oxide of silicon.
10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said nitride is a nitride of silicon.
11. (Withdrawn) A memory cell comprising:
 - a source;
 - a drain coupled to said source;
 - a Vss connection, coupled to said source;
 - a gate structure coupled to said source and said drain, said gate disposed so as to affect electrical flow between said source and said drain; and,
 - an isolating layer disposed so that said gate structure is enabled to retain a charge for an extended period of time.
12. (Withdrawn) The memory cell recited in Claim 11 wherein said extended period is a period in excess of one year.

13. (Withdrawn) The memory cell recited in Claim 11 further comprising a spacer disposed between said gate structure and said Vss connection.
14. (Withdrawn) The memory cell recited in Claim 13 wherein said spacer comprises an oxide/nitride/oxide stack.
15. (Withdrawn) The memory cell recited in Claim 14 wherein said oxide is an oxide of silicon.
16. (Withdrawn) The memory cell recited in Claim 14 wherein said nitride is a nitride of silicon.
17. (Withdrawn) A non-volatile memory device, comprising:
 - a plurality of non-volatile memory cells in an array;
 - a word line coupled to a row of said non-volatile memory cells;
 - a bit line coupled to a column of said non-volatile memory cells;
 - a plurality of drain regions coupled to said non-volatile memory cells;
 - a plurality of source regions coupled to said non-volatile memory cells; and
 - a Vss connection, coupled to a row of said source regions.
18. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 17 wherein said memory device is formed on a silicon substrate.
19. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 18 wherein source regions are formed in said silicon substrate by ion implantation.

20. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 19 wherein said Vss connection is formed above said plurality of source regions.
21. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 20 wherein said Vss connection is formed of poly silicon.
22. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 17 wherein a cell in said plurality of non-volatile memory cells comprises;
- a source;
 - a drain coupled to said source;
 - a Vss connection, coupled to said source;
 - a gate structure coupled to said source and said drain, said gate disposed so as to affect electrical flow between said source and said drain; and,
 - an isolating layer disposed so that a stored charge is enabled to affect the influence of said gate on said electrical flow between said source and said drain for an extended period.
23. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said isolating layer comprises an oxide/nitride/oxide stack.
24. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 23 wherein said isolation oxide/nitride/oxide stack comprises:
- a first oxide layer above said semiconductor substrate;
 - a nitride layer above said first oxide layer; and

a second oxide layer above said nitride layer.

25. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 24 wherein said oxide is an oxide of silicon.
26. (Withdrawn) The non-volatile memory device as recited in Claim 24 wherein said nitride is a nitride of silicon.